GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2777
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2017
Community Radio Station
Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Community Radio Stations (CRSs) along with the details of guidelines prepared, criteria fixed, funding provision made available for setting up of CRS;

(b) the number of CRS functioning in the country, State/Union Territory- wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up more CRS in the country, if so, the details thereof along with timeframe fixed for operationalising the same, location and State/Union Territory-wise including Karnataka, and if so, the details thereof; and;

(d) whether the Government has taken note that many CRSs are transmitting programmes illegally and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken/being taken in this regard including review of functioning of CRSs and if so the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, [COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

a) The salient features of Community Radio Stations are as follows:

i) Community Radio Stations (CRSs) can be set-up by Educational Institutions, Agriculture Universities (SAUs), ICAR institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Registered Societies and Autonomous Bodies and Public Trusts registered under Societies Act or any other such act relevant for the purpose. Registration at the time of application should be at least three years old.
ii) Any individual, political Parties and their affiliate organisations; [including students, women's, trade unions and such other wings affiliated to these parties.], organisations operating with a motive to earn profit; organisations expressly banned by the Union and State Governments are not eligible for CRS.
iii) The CRS should be designed to serve a specific well defined local community.
iv) It should have an ownership and management structure that is reflective of the community that the CRS seeks to serve.
v) Programmes for broadcast should be relevant to the educational, developmental, social and cultural needs of the community.
Permission to set up CRS is granted in accordance with Policy Guidelines for setting up of CRS in India, which are available on Ministry's website, www.mib.nic.in.
CRS permission Holders are eligible to apply for financial assistance for purchase of equipment under the Scheme, "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India". Detailed guidelines for providing financial assistance to CRS are also available on Ministry's website, www.mib.nic.in.

(b) At present 206 CRS are functioning in the country. State/Union Territory-wise details are at Annexure.

(c) Grant of permission to organisations to set up Community Radio Stations is a continuous process. Eligible organizations can apply to set up CRS in any part of the country including Karnataka. Permission is granted, subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria and receipt of clearances from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, and Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of Ministry of Communication & IT.

(d) The Permission Holder shall have to adhere to the provisions of the Programme and Advertising Code as prescribed for All India Radio. The functioning of State and District level Monitoring Committee has been enhanced to monitor private FM Radio Channels and Community Radio Stations. Complaints can also be sent to the Ministry of I&B. In the past, action has been taken by this Ministry against the CR stations wherever violations were established.

Review of the functioning of CRSs is a continuous exercise in the Ministry. Every year, a detailed report about operating CR Stations is brought out in the form of CR Compendium. So far, 5 editions of CR compendiums have been published which are available on Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in. An Inter Ministerial Committee has also been constituted to review the functioning of this sector. This Committee meets regularly and takes stock of the progress made and challenges being faced by the Community Radio Stations

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